Welcome from the Director

The American Indian Center (AIC) had another eventful school year in 2014-2015! First and foremost, the AIC staff would like to congratulate all of our 18 American Indian students who will graduate this spring. Well done undergraduate and graduate students! All of our American Indian students worked hard this year with over 91 students earning a GPA of 3.0 and above. Good luck in all of your future endeavors; please stay connected with us and SCSU, and remember you are always welcome to visit us anytime.

We began the New Year by participating in the Power-in-Diversity Conference. The AIC sponsored the Dakota Red Tree drum group from Morton, MN and held an “Idle No More” round dance to start the second day of the conference. Dakota elder Ron Leif was on hand to give the blessing.

During the spring semester we were honored to have three guests for the American Indian Speakers Series: Randy Gresczyk spoke on his experience teaching Ojibwe language; Missy Whiteman presented on her work producing American Indian films; and American Indian veterans Matthew Northrup and Isaac Robertson shared stories about their military experience on a panel during the American Indian Awareness Week. All presentations were well attended and received excellent reviews.

In March, the AIC co-sponsored with the Department of Campus Involvement for our 18th annual service trip to the Northern Cheyenne reservation. Fourteen students joined the AIC director and Zac Mangas, Director of the Veteran Resource Center in learning about Indian culture, history and providing service to the Montana Boys & Girls Club. In April, we held our 22nd Annual Spring Pow Wow. We had an increase in attendance but our dancers, drum groups and vendors were down slightly. Overall, the Pow Wow went smoothly and everyone enjoyed the traditional meal of buffalo. Discussions began right away on how to raise funds for next year’s Pow Wow.

The AIC strives to do its best in helping American Indian students in all academic and non-academic issues as they occur. We are here to listen and to help students with the necessary steps to solve problems and overcome barriers. Our American Indian Advisory Board advises the SCSU President and membership includes a tribal chair, tribal business people, elders and educators from American Indian communities from Minnesota. This year, the AIAB presented to the President an idea for a future Hotel Management Program.

This summer, we will be sponsoring our ninth Native Studies Summer Workshop for Educators (NSSWE) with the Prairie Island Dakota Community in Welch, MN. In June, the AIC will collaborate with the Fond du Lac Tribal & Community College on a two-day Native Skywatchers program. So, our summer will be busy providing native history, language and culture to educators as well as planning for the next school year. See you in the fall!
The American Indian Center welcomed two new employees to its team this fall! Stop by and say hello to student employees Alexis Amoako and Samuel Trivette!

Alexis Amoako is from Eagan, Minnesota. Alexis is currently a freshman at St. Cloud State University where she is majoring in Nursing. After completing the program, Alexis plans to further her career into becoming a Nurse Anesthetist. In the summer she works at Finish Line and Macy’s in the Mall of America. Alexis said “Having the opportunity to work at the AIC as a student employee is a great experience; it’s fun being around American Indian culture.”

Samuel Trivette is a senior at St. Cloud State University majoring in History with a minor in American Indian Studies. He is also a descendant of the Eastern Band of the Cherokee Nation in North Carolina. After volunteering and regularly visiting the American Indian Center over the past two years, he became a seasonal employee over the summer of 2014, eventually becoming an employee at the start of 2015. In addition to his work with the AIC, Sam is also a student employee at the SCSU planetarium, where he is occasionally able to combine his passions for astronomy and indigenous culture in the Native Skywatchers program. His other interests include biking, internet nonsense, mountain-climbing, being a self described nerd, writing, and learning his tribal language. Sam’s career goals as a future historian are to promote the cultural agency of Minnesota tribes, educate the public about the historical context for modern Native issues, and become an active advocate for indigenous lifeways and tribal sovereignty.

Original Ojibwe Artwork For Sale!

by William Wilson

William is an Ojibwe from Ontario, Canada near Lake Nipigon. Much of his artwork is inspired by dreams and visions. All of the brightly colored paintings are done in Ojibwe x-ray style. We are seeing the picture as the spirits see us. Artwork is for sale at the American Indian Center. For more information email aic@stcloudstate.edu.
Speaker Series

Iyekiyapiwin (Darlene St. Clair) is an Assistant Professor at St. Cloud State University, teaching American Indian Studies, and is the director of the Multicultural Resource Center. Her career has focused on the education of Native peoples from early childhood to college. Much of her work has concerned the integration of Native cultures, histories and languages into curricula, and the arts and cultural expressions of Native peoples. She is Bdewakantunwan Dakota and an enrolled member of the Lower Sioux Indian Community in Minnesota. On April 9, 2015 Darlene presented Pow Wows 101 in Atwood’s Mississippi Room to conclude American Indian Awareness Week events.

Randy Gresczyk graduated from the University of Minnesota with a Bachelors Degree in History and American Indian Studies. Randy is the Cultural Coordinator at Robbinsdale Area Schools and spoke to staff and students at SCSU about his endeavors in the education field on February 19, 2015. He also discussed his experiences and shared his knowledge about the Ojibwe language.

Missy Whiteman (Arapaho and Kickapoo) understands her work to be a voice for her ancestors—to educate and to foster better understanding among all people as well as to promote change in Native and non-Native communities. While based in part on traditional ways and ideas, her art also addresses themes of loss in relation to larger cultural forces. An Indigenous media advocate, photographer, visual artist and documentary filmmaker, Missy originally engaged in art through acting. After witnessing a lack of role models for Native youth and inaccurate history and representation being taught, she pursued filmmaking and became a media artist. Today Missy keeps Indigenous stories and histories alive as an educator and mentor. Much of her work centers around Native women, domestic violence, and healing. Missy uses media as a tool to tell her stories, to heal, be inspired, and communicate the Indigenous perspective. Missy’s presentation was the kick off to American Indian Awareness Week beginning April 6, 2015.

Native American Veterans voiced their stories and experiences during American Indian Awareness week on April 8, 2015. The panel consisted of Jim Fountaine, Isaac Robertson, Jim Knutson-Kolodzne, and Matthew Northrup. Students at SCSU had the opportunity to ask the veterans questions to get a better understanding of why American Indians fight for a land that was stolen from them.

Iyekiyapiwin (Darlene St. Clair) is an Assistant Professor at St. Cloud State University, teaching American Indian Studies, and is the director of the Multicultural Resource Center. Her career has focused on the education of Native peoples from early childhood to college. Much of her work has concerned the integration of Native cultures, histories and languages into curricula, and the arts and cultural expressions of Native peoples. She is Bdewakantunwan Dakota and an enrolled member of the Lower Sioux Indian Community in Minnesota. On April 9, 2015 Darlene presented Pow Wows 101 in Atwood’s Mississippi Room to conclude American Indian Awareness Week events.
On April 23, 2015 two Outstanding American Indian students were recognized. Samuel Trivette, a descendant of the Eastern Band of the Cherokee Nation in Cherokee, North Carolina, received the undergraduate Outstanding American Indian Student Award. In addition to his academic achievements as a History major with a minor in American Indian Studies, Sam is actively involved in numerous events sponsored by the American Indian Center. He has served as the Volunteer Coordinator for the SCSU Spring Pow Wow over the past two years, and assisted the AIC Director, Jim Knutson-Kolodzne, with administration and operation of the 2014 Benton County Powwow. 2015 marked his second time participating in the Spring Break Service Trip to the Northern Cheyenne reservation in Lame Deer, Montana, and he fully intends to apply to go again next year. Over the past summer, Sam served as a student employee at the Native Skywatchers workshop and Native Studies Summer Workshop for Educators (NSSWE) at Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College, and he will also be working at the NSSWE workshop at Prairie Island this upcoming summer. This semester, he also began working at the AIC during Wednesday evening study hours. He is the current Vice President of the All Tribes Council (ATC) student organization on campus, and has been a regular participant in the ATC Ojibwe Language Table since its inception, actively campaigning for the creation of a Dakota language table. Off-campus, Sam was recently accepted into the American Indian Museum Fellowship offered by the Minnesota Historical Society, and looks forward to spending his early summer learning more about potential career options in the fields of tribal advocacy and cultural preservation.

Throughout his experiences at the American Indian Center over the past two years, Sam has always strived to maintain an open mind and willingness to learn from those experiences, knowing first-hand the powerful impact that ignorance can have.
The graduate student presented with this award was Aaron Nordrum. Aaron is a decendant of the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa. He graduated from SCSU with a double major in Psychology and Community Psychology. He will be graduating from the Marriage and Family Therapy graduate program this Spring. Since moving to St. Cloud in 2010, Aaron has worked hard towards obtaining an education while contributing to the university and community. He is currently a member of the American Indian Advisory Board and is the Graduate Assistant at the American Indian Center. He is also currently acting as All Tribes Council’s Communications Coordinator, collaborating with other students to meet once a week for an Ojibwe Language Table. Aaron has volunteered in the community at Anna Marie’s Women’s Shelter as a mentor for male teens, Habitat for Humanity ReStore, and the St. Cloud Children’s Home Experiential Learning Program. He is currently employed at REM Central Lakes working with individuals who have disabilities and as a Youth Counselor at the St. Cloud Children’s Home. Aaron also coaches kickboxing in the community at Downtown Gym and Fitness.

As the Graduate Assistant, Aaron coordinates the Engage Program which promotes SCSU and the AIC to the indigenous population throughout Minnesota. Aaron was a student leader on the Lame Deer service trip and assisted in the selection of participants. He is involved with Excel Dog Training in St. Cloud and is a certified therapy team with his dog Thor. He had the opportunity to incorporate Animal Assisted Therapy with his clients while interning at Solutions Counseling in St. Michael, MN during the past year. When talking with Aaron about his goals after graduation he had this to say: “I have always had a love for dogs and I believe the use of animal assisted therapy has been underutilized by professionals in the field of family therapy. I was able to see firsthand how big of an impact a dog can have on an individual’s treatment progress while working at the St. Cloud Children’s Home and interning at Solutions Counseling. The reactions and behaviors of the children around the animal motivated me to get further training in this area. I believe Animal-Assisted Therapy is beneficial for clients as well as the animals. The more working dogs we have, the less that will be put down or be in shelters.”

Sam’s message: “For most of my life, I was kept in the dark about my own Native background. The message I received every day from the culture I was raised in was that Indians were a thing of the past, thus I could never be one myself or practice indigenous lifeways in the present. Never having access or exposure to any opinions to the contrary of the dominant culture, I subconsciously accepted this idea for years and years, never realizing the part of myself that I was being deprived of. When I finally became aware that this cultural deprivation was happening and the reasons for it, I was immediately determined not to let it continue. By getting involved with the AIC as much as I could, I began the long journey of finding my own identity as ywiya, as well as learning through observation about the Anishinaabeg and Dakota people who call this place home. It is only thanks to the kindness and patience of the friends and mentors I have found on that journey that I have managed to find as much success as I have, and no amount of effort on my part to promote the AIC, or tribal agency in general, could ever repay all that has been given to me in my time here.”
American Indian Center Events
Spring/Summer 2015
22nd Annual Pow Wow &
American Indian Awareness Week

On April 11, 2015 the American Indian Center (AIC) and the All Tribes Council (ATC) hosted St. Cloud State University’s (SCSU) 22nd Annual Pow Wow. The entire week leading up to the Pow Wow was the celebration of American Indian Awareness Week (AIAW). AIAW is designed to bring awareness to the community about American Indian issues, history, and perspectives. Each day during the week, the AIC invited a guest speaker, or hosted a film that promoted awareness to those eager to learn. Beginning on Monday, Missy Whiteman shared an art presentation. Tuesday provided an American Indian Movie Screening of Our Fires Still Burn. AIC Director Jim Knutson-Kolodzne assisted in the Indigenous Veteran’s Panel on Wednesday. Darlene St. Clair’s Pow Wows 101 presentation was held on Thursday. Friday evening was the building of the traditional arbor. The arbor could not have been completed without the amazing help of all the volunteers who took the time out of their busy schedules to come and make the arbor building a success. A big thank you to all who helped!

Saturday morning at 10:00 a.m., the 22nd Annual Pow Wow officially began! Participation was high with nearly 100 dancers, 10 vendors, and 4 drum groups. The Pow Wow was a great success thanks to Keyeon Kingbird who performed as the Master of Ceremonies and Kevin Kingbird as Arena Director. This year’s Spiritual Leader was Murphy Thomas. Michael Diver and Patty Sam did a wonderful job as the Pow Wow’s head dancers. The Battle River Drum Group was host drum this year with invited drum group Red Tree. Fond du Lac Honor Guard, Tom Whitebird also contributed to the event. This year’s Pow Wow had a hand drum contest as well as a potato dance contest with Grand entries at 1:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. and the community meal at 5:00 p.m. A great thank you goes out to all who participated and volunteered with this year’s Pow Wow!!
American Indian Center Events
Spring/Summer 2015

AIC Luncheons

Every other Wednesday the American Indian Center hosts a luncheon for all staff and students at St. Cloud State University. The luncheons are a time to share and hear other people’s stories, make new friends, and enjoy a good meal. Join us for a luncheon and get to know the American Indian Center’s staff and students!

ENGAGE Program

The ENGAGE Program provides opportunities for individuals and groups of American Indian students to sample the university experience at SCSU, and enables them to fully explore campus life through a one or two day visit. This Spring the AIC had one participant in the ENGAGE Program which was a group from Apple Valley-Eagan, MN. The group came to SCSU for a day visit and had the opportunity to tour the campus and the dorms, question an American Indian student panel, and see an admissions presentation by Krystal Scott.

Scholarship Recipients

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Aaron Nordrum</td>
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<tr>
<td>Casandra Aspinwall</td>
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<td>Emma Needham</td>
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SCSU Academic Calendar
Summer 2015

May 18
Classes Begin Summer Block 1

May 25
Memorial Day Holiday-No Classes, Offices Closed

June 25
Last Day of Summer Block 1

June 29
Classes Begin Summer Block 2

July 1
Deadline for Reporting Grades Summer Block 1

July 3
Independence Day Holiday (Observed) No Classes, Offices Closed

August 6
Last Day of Summer Block 2

August 12
Deadline for Reporting Grades Summer Block 2

Congratulations Graduates!!!

Congratulations to the following Spring 2015 American Indian Graduates! We wish you good luck and great success with your future endeavors!

Undergraduates
Jessica Almarza
Casandra Aspinwall
Jacob Barraza-Hibbard
Ashley Bresson
Ashley Brooks
Kayci Charter
Rachel Fairbanks
Tyler Mathison
Brian McKenzie
Wiyual Miyon
Rhiannon Moon
Emily Olson
Amber Vroman

Masters
Stephanie Cramer
David Goble
John Littlewolf
Rachel McDonnell
Aaron Nordrum

A total of 18 American Indian students are graduating from SCSU this Spring! There are also 91 American Indian students currently attending SCSU with a GPA above 3.0!
Support Services

The American Indian Center offers a number of support services to American Indian students on the St. Cloud State University campus. All Indian students are encouraged to utilize these services.

Discussion and assistance in:

- Admission process
- Financial Aid
- Personal concerns
- Academic concerns
- Tutoring
- Advising
- Housing
- Career development

Referrals to appropriate SCSU agencies when necessary.

Native Leadership Retreat for all students helping them to become comfortable in their new campus and communities.

Services to Indian student organizations to enable students to become involved in student activities and meet other Indian students.

Social activities are offered throughout the academic year to help students make connections.

Speaker Series events bring American Indian presenters to the SCSU campus. The presenter speaks on a variety of Indian topics.

Student Retention Luncheons are every other Wednesday at noon. These gatherings are a great opportunity to share your story, hear others, and enjoy good food.

Computer lab is available for students to access e-mail and complete coursework.

A quiet place to read a book, write a paper, or study is available.

Are you Native but haven’t stopped by the AIC?

Do you want to learn more about what the AIC has to offer you?

*NEW STUDENTS*

If you are a student who has never visited the AIC, stop by and meet the Director, Jim Knutson-Kolodzne, to get a tour and learn about our services!

All Tribes Council

Another opportunity for students to get involved is joining All Tribes Council. ATC is a student organization which supports the social and academic needs of American Indian Students at St. Cloud State University.

For more information contact Samuel Trivette (President) at trsa1201@stcloudstate.edu or Amber Lewis (Vice President) at aslewis@stcloudstate.edu

Miigwech!
The Native Studies Summer Workshop for Educators is designed to increase the knowledge, sensitivity and awareness of Minnesota educators on the histories, cultures and languages of the federally recognized tribes and bands in Minnesota in order to increase their effectiveness in working with American Indian students and teaching American Indian content to all students.

**Early bird registration: $495.00 by May 29th, 2015**

**Basic Registration: $525.00**

For additional information please contact the AIC at 320-308-4706
Native Skywatchers - Ojibwe & D(L)akota Star Knowledge
Educator & Community Workshop - Everyone Welcome.

Fond du Lac Tribal & Community College, Mon & Tues, June 8 & 9, 2015

Register at: http://web.stcboustate.edu/planetarium/native_skywatchers.html
Sponsored by NASA-MN Space Grant, St. Cloud State University, Fond du Lac Tribal & Community College
The American Indian Center (AIC) and the Department of Campus Involvement (DCI) sponsored a Spring Break Service Trip to the Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservation in March 2015. Fifteen St. Cloud State University students and Jim Knutson-Kolodzne, AIC Director, participated in this annual trip. The necessity for this trip is multi-dimensional. From a University perspective, this provides students, faculty and staff with a first-hand opportunity to experience a different culture, customs, and community while relating to issues about which they may not have otherwise learned. The trip impacts student’s college and life experience in a way that increases the likelihood that they will remain in school and continue to engage in service throughout their lives. From a community perspective, the trip facilitates much needed cultural exchange and dialogue as well as service that strengthens the infrastructure of underserved, marginalized communities across the country.

Trip recruitment began in the Fall of 2014, resulting with six American Indian students participating. Trip participants engaged in service activities which typically include educating or mentoring youth, assisting older persons, household/building/environmental trail repair and maintenance and community building projects. Students who engage in these types of service-learning adventures report having stronger relationships with faculty and are more likely to be happy with their college experience; thus they exhibit higher retention rates and greater likelihood of graduating than students who do not have exposure to service learning.

We will be going back to the Northern Cheyenne reservation in March 2016, and it would be great to have some of our new entering American Indian students go with us.

Below are reflections from some of the participants:

“The trip to Lame Deer was an experience I will always remember. This was not just a service trip but a much enjoyed Spring Break. I only hope I contributed to the community of Lame Deer as much as I feel I got in return. Everyone involved was so welcoming and thankful; it really made the trip inspiring and encouraged me to return. Throughout the week I was able to make new friends, interact with youth doing different activities, and also learn about the Cheyenne culture. I am deeply grateful for the Lame Deer community welcoming us in such a respectful way and everyone who was involved in making this trip happen.” - Aaron Nordrum
“Going on the service trip to Lame Deer, MT I have gained and learned so much about myself as well as the Native communities outside of MN. I have realized things about myself that I never knew before and it’s an amazing feeling to continue to learn and grow as an individual. The people that I got to meet and build relationships with was amazing! The Northern Cheyenne people are the most humbling, extraordinary and giving people I have ever met. I am so grateful to have been given the opportunity to give back to the Northern Cheyenne community that is so giving themselves. If I could, I would continue to go back to Lame Deer, MT every year!” - Trip Participant

Participants

Jim Knutson-Kolodzne (AIC Director)
Aaron Nordrum (Student Leader)
Annie Babcock (Student Leader)
Rachel Fairbanks
Lee Moua
Casandra Aspinwall
Samuel Trivette
Brooke Hornseth
Christina Huling
Stephanie George
Zachary Mangas
Marion Sirian
Jennifer McKenzie
Jenna Loerzel
Do Hwan Jung
Amber Lewis

SCSU students playing with children at the Boys and Girls Club.
All Tribes Council Language Table

In September 2014, student organization All Tribes Council (ATC) began holding a weekly language table focusing on the Ojibwe language. The table is organized by ATC’s Communications Coordinator Aaron Nordrum. The language table is an opportunity for staff, students, friends, and family to get together to share stories and food while practicing and learning the Ojibwe language. The table is fortunate to have a speaker of the language attend. Matthew Northrup is an enrolled member of the Fond du Lac Band and all members present are grateful for what he brings to the table. The table would not be a success without the dedication of Aaron Nordrum, Matthew Northrup, Cassie Aspinwall, Emma Needham, Samuel Trivette, June Sayers, and Jennifer Ellenbaum. If you would like more information about the language table please contact ATC President Samuel Trivette at trsa1201@stcloudstate.edu. Miigwech!

Leadership development and personal growth opportunities!

The 6th Annual Power in Diversity Leadership Conference offered opportunities for personal growth and leadership development to college students of color and underrepresented students through a variety of workshops, keynote addresses and programs. It also provided a forum for student leaders to connect with other colleges and universities across the region. Advisors, faculty and staff who work with students leaders had a chance to network and to share ideas and strategies. Conference attendees learned from leadership activities that assisted in the development and enhancement of one’s own skills to successfully navigate through college and into the workforce and to be a support for other students as well.

The conference theme, “Today’s Vision: Tomorrow’s Reality,” set the stage for keynote speakers and workshop presenters to identify ways that participants can lead the way in implementing the positive changes for tomorrow’s world that they are envisioning today. Joe Erler provided the Honor Song and Ron Leith provided the opening prayer. The AIC sponsors 4-8 students to go each year.

From left to right: Samuel Trivette, Emma Needham, June Sayers, Matthew Northrup, and Aaron Nordrum
June Sayers is one of SCSU’s Native students on campus. June is half Ho-Chunk Nation and half Red Lake Ojibwe, where she is an enrolled member. She is studying Hydrology with plans to continue onto law school to study Indian and environmental law. In 2014, she was selected to participate in the Minnesota Pre-Law Scholars (MPLS) Program at the University of Minnesota—Twin Cities. June is working toward a career dedicated in service of Native communities, protection of treaty rights, culture, and natural resources. On campus, June is a member of the Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (LSAMP) NorthStar STEM (Science-Technology-Engineering-Math) Alliance. NorthStar STEM Alliance provides various types of support for underrepresented STEM majors. She is a member of American Indian Science & Engineering Society (AISES). In March 2014, she volunteered at the Region 5 AISES conference at the University of Minnesota—Twin Cities.

June co-presented at the 2015 Geoscience Alliance Conference in Portland, Oregon. This research was about monitoring sand dune restoration and geomorphological changes on barrier island, Grand Isle, Louisiana. Research presented at the Geoscience Alliance conference was from field work performed in March 2013, surveying sand dunes on Grand Isle. June would like to continue using her geosciences background to work with Native communities on environmental issues since Native communities are so connected to the land and are being affected by ongoing climate change.

In her spare time, June enjoys outdoor activities such as gardening, cycling, swimming, and running. She has worked part time at The Hub Bicycle Co-Op in Minneapolis and continues to serve as an on-call shift employee. June is working on various skills such as sewing, Ojibwe language, and Ho-Chunk language. June likes many types of music, but her favorite piece this month is Yo-Yo Ma performing composer Ennio Morricone’s Lady Caliph, Nocturne.